

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral
2 devices, comprising:

3 a first peripheral device associated with a first software component and having
4 a first functionality; and

5 a second peripheral device associated with a second software component and
6 having a second functionality, the second peripheral device being coupled to the first
7 peripheral device, the first and second peripheral devices together performing
8 functionality in addition to the first and second functionalities and having a common
9 user interface.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices
2 are coupled via a computer.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices
2 are coupled via a network.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices
2 are coupled via a wireless network.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices
2 are coupled directly to each other.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the first peripheral device is a scanner
2 and the second peripheral device is a printer and the first and second peripheral devices
3 combine to perform the functionality of a copier.

1 7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface,
2 where the graphical user interface receives information from the first and second
3 software components and presents to a user the additional functionality.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the first software component associated
2 with the first peripheral device and the second software component associated with the
3 second peripheral device allow the first and second peripheral devices to exchange
4 information over a network, the information pertaining to the identity of the first
5 peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the information exchanged between the
2 first and second peripheral devices further comprises information relating to the
3 capabilities of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the first peripheral device modifies its
2 capabilities based on the information received from the second peripheral device.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the first peripheral device presents to a
2 user a menu of available functionality based on the information received from the
3 second peripheral device.

1 12. A method for improving the functionality of a plurality of peripheral
2 devices, the method comprising the steps of:

3 providing a first peripheral device associated with a first software component
4 and having a first functionality;

5 coupling a second peripheral device associated with a second software component
6 and a second functionality to the first peripheral device; and

7 where the first and second peripheral devices together perform functionality in
8 addition to the first and second functionalities and have a common user interface.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of coupling the
2 first and second peripheral devices via a computer.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of coupling the
2 first and second peripheral devices via a network.

1 15. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of coupling the
2 first and second peripheral devices via a wireless network.

1 16. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of directly
2 coupling the first and second peripheral devices.

1 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the first peripheral device is a scanner
2 and the second peripheral device is a printer and the first and second peripheral devices
3 combine to perform the functionality of a copier.

1 18. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of presenting to a
2 user the additional functionality.

1 19. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of the first and
2 second peripheral devices exchanging information over a network, the information
3 pertaining to the identity of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of exchanging
2 information between the first and second peripheral devices, the information relating to
3 the capabilities of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

1 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of modifying the
2 capabilities of the first peripheral device based on the information received from the
3 second peripheral device.

1 22. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of the first
2 peripheral device presenting to a user a menu of available functionality based on the
3 information received from the second peripheral device.

1 23. A system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral
2 devices, comprising:
3 a first peripheral device associated with a first software component and having
4 a first functionality; and
5 a second peripheral device associated with a second software component and
6 having a second functionality, the second peripheral device being coupled to the first
7 peripheral device, the first and second peripheral devices together performing
8 functionality in addition to the first and second functionalities.

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